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Government and for which grants will be given, and they can teach Tamil in those schools as the chief language. Government cannot introduce Tamil as a chief language in any Sirkar school.

99. Thekkumalai to be thrown open for grazing.

Mr. B. Narayana Pillai requested that the Thekkumalai in the Agastisvaram Taluk be thrown open for the grazing of cattle throughout the year, instead of during certain months only. On the eastern side of the hills, cattle from the British Indian parts were being allowed to graze and fees were being levied for the same; while on the western side, heavy fines were realised if cattle of the taluk were taken in for grazing. No trees grew on the hills, and under existing management, the hills would never become filled with valuable trees. The member referred to the existence of a Government order under which cattle were being allowed to graze during some months, and said that, at other times, grazing was not prohibited but connived at by the forest subordinates. He requested that the practice be made to prevail throughout the year.

Dewan's reply.—Government are not prepared to increase the facilities for the grazing of cattle within forest reserves. The irregularities in forest administration mentioned by the member are, however, noted and will be enquired into.

100. Water-supply for the Nagercoil town.

Mr. S. Subramony Iyer urged the desirability of supplying the Nagercoil town with wholesome water for drinking purposes. He said that Nagercoil stood first among the towns in the State as regards density of population and was not behind others as regards her commerce and industry. The Kanakamulam market held on three days in a week; the annual festival at the St. Xavier's Church at Kottar, in connection with which Rs. 500 was being spent for the supply of good water in view to prevent the out-break of epidemic diseases; the existence of the District, Munsiff and Second Class Magistrate's Courts, of a Second Grade College and a High School, besides several other public offices and institutions went to swell the actual population in the town. The necessity for early steps being taken to ensure a good water-supply was brought to the notice of Government by the local Town Improvement Committee, which led to correspondence with the Engineer's Department. He then referred to the opinions of Mr. Jacob, Executive Engineer, and Mr. Jopp, the late Chief Engineer, regarding the feasibility of conducting water along a duct of iron pipes from a reservoir within

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reasonable distance of Nagercoil fed by the Kodayar waters. The subject might now be taken in hand as the Kodayar Project has been completed, and the member suggested that the amount that could be realised by levying a water-rate would suffice for the payment of a fair percentage of interest on the capital outlay and the up-keep and maintenance of the scheme. He requested therefore that orders be issued to investigate the scheme and prepare the necessary plans and estimates, and added that sub-committees have been appointed, one to investigate the subject of water-supply, and another to report on the feasibility of raising funds by the levy of certain taxes and tolls as contemplated in the Regulation.

Dewan's reply.—Government are now spending about Rs. 8,000 annually on the Nagercoil town. The Committee had better first take action to impose a house-tax, which they are competent to do under the T. I. C. Regulation now in force, and give some relief to the general finances. Government will, after that, take up the further question of spending more money on the town, and also the suggestion, made by the member, to impose further taxation in the shape of a water-rate. It is suggested by the member that the Regulation may be amended and power taken to impose new taxes. But the Committee have not used the power, they already have under the existing Regulation, to impose house-tax. Only when that is done, will Government consider the question of spending more money on the town.

101. ***Survey of porambokes in Nagercoil town.***

Mr. S. Subramony Iyer also represented the necessity for a sketch survey of porambokes within the limits of the Nagercoil town. The want of such a survey led to difficulties in settling questions of encroachment. There were in the town nearly 350 streets, 200 lanes and an equal number of water-courses, besides some rain-fed tanks. The measurements taken at the Settlement were, in some cases, inaccurate or imperfect, and indefinite or misleading. On sanitary and other grounds, it was highly advisable that encroachments on porambokes were effectually guarded against, especially in a thickly populated town like Nagercoil where the price of land ruled high.

Dewan's reply.—As in the matter of water-supply to the town, Government sympathise with the proposal made by the member to have a sketch survey of the porambokes within the town. The acting Survey Superintendent says that the work will cost about Rs. 10,000. Where will the Committee find the money? A survey like this,

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